



# WILDCAT

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## 81st RSC reservists answer call to duty

Story by Nikki Davis Maute  
American Staff Writer

LAUREL, Miss. – Family members were quiet Tuesday afternoon as they gathered for the official farewell to the 160 members of Laurel based 647th Transportation Company.

A few family members - including Darlene Tingle who sent her husband off to Desert Storm in 1990 - couldn't hold back the tears as officials praised the unit, describing it as one of the best trucking companies in the Army Reserve.

"I am hoping they don't go overseas," Tingle said. During the Desert Storm call-up, the unit did not leave California. The Soso resident's husband is a 20-year veteran, but this time he's leaving behind a 14-month-old daughter; Elizabeth Pauline.

"It's a big difference now with Lizzie here," Tingle said.

The 647th is one of 15 units in the eight-state Army Reserve area that has been mobilized as part of America's response to the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks against the United States.

The citizen soldiers who reported to Fort Rucker, Ala., range from 21-year-old Syretta S. of Meridian to 20-year

veteran Russell J. of Soso. Last names of those activated are not being used in order to protect the soldiers and their families.

"I never thought I would be activated," Syretta S. said. "I'm a little apprehensive," she admitted. She is a student at the University of Southern Mississippi who joined the reserves to pay for her education.

Russell J., a Laurel firefighter, just wants to "get home in one piece." With four daughters at home - all under the age of 5 - and a new house under construction, Russell is worried about leaving his wife with all those responsibilities.

It is the policy of the Army not to discuss operations or the unit's mission, but Laurel Mayor Susan Vincent summed up the unit's duties.

Vincent, who spent a day with the unit at Camp Shelby last year, said she learned from the members that they transport beans, bullets and gasoline.

"I know that you are ready," Vincent said as she addressed the soldiers and families. "I know this is a bittersweet day for your families. I ask God to guide and protect you individually and that God bless the United States of America." ☸

**"I ask God to guide and protect you individually and that God bless the United States of America."**

Mayor Susan Vincent



Photo by Barry Beard, Hattiesburg American

**Private First Class Stacey B. spends time with her daughter Katie, 5, during a farewell ceremony for the 647th Transportation Company.**

## Soldier works hard to insure soldiers, civilians safety

Story by Staff Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon  
81st RSC PAO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – After Sept. 11th, the way many Americans lived their lives changed and a sense of heightened alert became a part of their daily routine. Now with the presence of Anthrax being detected in post offices in the United States, many postal workers are putting their lives on the line to provide mail to their fellow citizens. One 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) mail clerk is doing the same everyday, but she said the job must get done.

Sergeant Tamika T. Lowe, a mail center supervisor for the Headquarters, 81st RSC, in Birmingham, said being a mail clerk at this time in the world can have some disadvantages, but someone has to do it.

"It's not a job many people want to do right now, but it's a job that has to be done. Personally, I'm a little scared to do it right now, but someone has to," Lowe said. "It's scary to think that it's a possibility that someone might send us something unsafe. A lot of people ask me, 'Aren't



Photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon

**Sergeant Tamika T. Lowe inspects boxes before bringing them into the mailroom.**

you scared to open those packages?' Yes! I'm scared, but the job still has to be done."

Lowe said there are certain procedures the mail clerks in her office follow every day to insure their safety and the safety of their coworkers.

"We take the packages out to the warehouse first before bringing them into the mailroom as a precaution. We

started doing this after the Anthrax scare surfaced," Lowe said. "We open boxes and bulky letters out in the warehouse. As a precaution we wear protective masks and gloves in case we happen to find a suspicious package. So far we haven't received any packages like that."

"Ever since Sept. 11th, performing my job has become a little more difficult, but this is what I do. This is my job," Lowe said, as she gazed around the mailroom.

Lowe said through all that has occurred with the attack and the Anthrax scare, she would never think of giving up her job as a mail clerk.

"There has never been a time that I've thought about getting out of the Army or changing my job because of the terrorist attack or Anthrax scare. I have been in the Army for seven years now and this is all I really know. It's not a problem for me because I love it," Lowe said. "I'm really putting everyone's safety before mine because I'm the one opening the packages first, but all the precautions we take are for the safety of the personnel that work in the building here at the 81st RSC, and I want to make sure they are all safe." ☸



**Wildcat cover photo:**  
Sergeant Tamika T. Lowe, a mailroom clerk with the Headquarters, 81st RSC, wears a facemask and gloves as she inspects packages at a nearby warehouse before bringing them into the mailroom.  
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon, 81st RSC PAO)

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# GENERAL COMMENTS



Maj. Gen. Michael R. Mayo

**M**ission or Soldiers? Years ago when I was in Officer Candidate School I was taught mission first. As an Infantry Officer I always knew that meant “Attack the Hill, Defend in Position,” but the more I learned, and continue to learn, I realized that soldiers are first and mission is secondary.

### Mission Success

It is true that unless we have mission success, we fail, but obtaining mission success means we have to have trained and ready soldiers. Well-trained and nurtured soldiers will ensure a mission’s success each and every time.

### Soldier Success

Achieving the “Command Success Indicators” is one mission. Every indicator has one thing in common - our soldiers. Providing logistics support to CORPS elements may be the mission of your unit. We depend on soldiers to make it happen.

### Leader Success

If leaders fail their soldiers, then the mission realizes the same fate. Taking care of soldiers is more than a leader responsibility; it is a responsibility of every unit member. When we depend on each other for survival and task accomplishments, it is important that we all do our part. Each of us has a

stake in the success of others.

### Selfless-Service

I recently read a narrative for a Silver Star awarded to a private during Vietnam. The medic, exposing himself to enemy fire, cared for the wounded while the battle raged. Someone cared for that soldier early in his career to ensure he had the right skills and attitude to do what was necessary.

Regardless of your grade, accept the challenge offered by that Private. Learn all you can to be the very best at what you do and help others do the same. If you do this you will always achieve mission.

*(Readiness-Soldiers-Families)*

## CHAPLAIN’S CHAT

**W**e are at war! There is indeed evil in the world. Evil frightens and terrorizes people. Describing the feeling that evil brings is difficult. Those touched by evil indeed remember that feeling. For many Americans this crisis has been an occasion to find personal meaning and purpose. Many have sought to return to their faith roots. There is a foundation of faith that our forefathers knew well, a foundation that is still secure.

Our nation has a strong Biblical foundation and military foundation. I am reading a manual dated July 23, 1941, entitled the “new” FM 21-100, Basic Field Manual, Soldier’s Handbook. The foreword to the Soldier’s Handbook reads, “You are now a member of the Army of the United States. That Army is made up of free citizens chosen from among a free people. The American people of their own will...have determined that the free institutions of this country will continue to exist. They have declared that, if necessary, we will defend our right to live in our own American way and continue to enjoy the benefits and privileges, which are granted to the citizens of no other nation. It is upon you, and the many thousands of your comrades now in the military service, that our country has placed its confident faith that this defense will succeed should it ever be challenged.”

Our own way of life has now been



Chaplain (Col.) Tommy W. Smith

challenged by the attacks upon our country. Now we as citizen-soldiers are being called upon to defend the American way. Our country has placed its confident faith in knowing that our military personnel will succeed in this challenge.

This old manual in my hand has served to stir my own heart to think of that “greatest generation of Americans” and their link to those of us today who still believe. Yes we still believe in the American way and in the Divine Service! I hope you too will find the chaplain of your organization and make him your confidant and helper. The unit ministry team is dedicated to ministering to all of our soldiers. Above all, pray for one-another and pray for our nation, as I pray for you.

**“...we as citizen-soldiers are being called upon to defend the American way.”**

Chaplain (Col.) Tommy W. Smith

## CSM MEMOS

**F**or me it hardly seems that the reality of the holidays are with us again. It appears to be much too soon for this time of the year to be here! The happenings of daily life coupled with the national events of the last few months, makes time appear to “fly”. With such an appearance, I have thought about accomplishing the task of the holidays for this year and next so as to avoid the “crunch” that each year seems to bring!

At present, many soldiers of the 81st are mobilized in support of the national resolve to combat and eliminate worldwide terrorism. I especially wish for each of you to join with me to remember these soldiers and their families, for this holiday season will be different than those of the past years for them.

From my observation, I take pride in reporting the fact that those who are mobilized are performing extremely well. I am elated to be a part of this Army and to proclaim my admiration for these professionals and the jobs they do for their country.

With the preparation of the past now a reality for those mobilized, now may be the best time for those not yet mobilized to assess the status of yourself and your unit. Being prepared for mobilization is a continuous series of tasks for each unit, as well as, each individual.

You may discover that things to consider for mobilization may not be as well planned as was previously thought. Family care plans and current physicals



Command Sgt. Maj. George Johnson

are extremely important and in many cases appear to need concentrated attention. To say the least, it has always been a speculative task to surmise when and where the next mobilization will occur. Continuous preparation, as well as, vigilance to individual and family circumstances is paramount for all concerned. You can never be “too prepared”. A great place to start your preparation is with FORMDEPS. Many questions concerning mobilization are answered within this document.

I would be remiss if I did not encourage all to continue to make appropriate risk assessments for your holiday plans. Our goal for each other’s safety is a given, but the actions of others do not seem to mirror our goals. Tragedy is only a breath away! I sincerely wish all of you as happy a holiday season as is possible!

**“I sincerely wish all of you as happy a holiday season as is possible!”**

Command Sgt. Maj. George Johnson

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## WILDCAT

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# Packing it up Reservists prepare to ship out in support of Operation Joint Forge

Story by Vernessa Barnes  
81st RSC, Family Readiness Office

ORLANDO, Fla. – Members of the Orlando based 912th (AG) Postal Unit are sorting and delivering mail to soldiers in Bosnia. They will be performing this mission for at least six months. This is one of the latest deployments in support of Operation Joint Forge.

Families gathered, but not with the usual smiles and activities associated with family day. They were more somber, and rightfully so. One spouse was concerned that her children would not recognize their father when he returned. Another one stated that she would be spending her first anniversary alone. She said, "I'm not happy, but he has to do what he has to do."

One soldier viewed this trip as "another cultural experience and a change of scenery." Last year she sorted mail for two weeks in Korea and loved it. "I like to see how different cultures live." Considering the nature of their trip, sightseeing will be limited.

Six months isn't a long time until you consider what all lies within...missed birthdays,



Photo Courtesy of 3rd PERSCOM

**Reservists from the 912th (AG) Postal Unit look over deployment paperwork during a pre-deployment briefing. The soldiers deployed to Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Forge.**

anniversaries, Christmas, and most importantly, family members. In spite of all of the missed opportunities, there are those with mixed emotions, "I'm sad about leaving my family, but I'm excited about going." Another soldier says, "My son is

sad, but he is excited about his mother being in the Army."

Other individuals and units throughout the 81st region are continuing to deploy in support of Operations Joint Forge, Joint Guardian and Enduring Freedom. ☼

## Family members now covered under SGLI

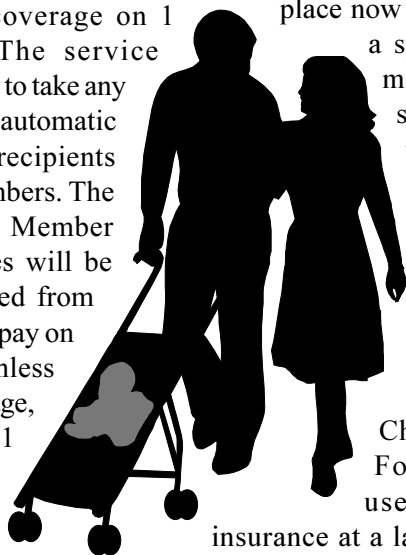
Story by Vernessa Barnes  
81st RSC, Family Readiness Office

Family members (spouse and children) will begin receiving Service Member's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage on 1 November 2001. The service member does not have to take any actions, as it will be automatic coverage for SGLI recipients who have family members. The payment for Family Member Coverage for spouses will be automatically deducted from the service member's pay on 1 December 2001 unless you decline the coverage, in writing, before 1 November 2001. Because coverage for children is free, there is no action required.

There is a form that must be used by members who do not want to be automatically enrolled. Soldiers must submit this form to prevent money from being deducted from their pay. Dual military members must also

complete the forms to decline enrollment in advance if they do not want the additional coverage.

All SGLI recipients will use the same SGLI procedures that are in place now to decline SGLI for a spouse. The service member's personnel service representative who handles SGLI is responsible for assisting in completing and processing forms for spouse SGLI. The Basic SGLI Process "Does Not Change." The SGLV Form 8285 may be used to restore insurance at a later date if desired. Form SGLV 8286 A (Family Coverage Election) is now available on the VA Website in Adobe PDF format. More information on SGLI can be found at the following website: <http://www.insurance.va.gov/forms/forms.htm>. ☼



## Lending a helping hand

Story by Staff Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon  
81st RSC PAO

As Americans continue to recover from the devastating attack on the United States, many Army Reservists and National Guardsmen are deploying and mobilizing in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. As they go forth to defend our country, many of them are leaving behind family members who are in need of various types of support, such as financial. One

organization that is reaching out to help the family members of deployed or mobilized soldiers financially is The American Red Cross. The American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services (ARC/AFES) offers financial assistance for Army Reserve and National Guard during Operation Enduring Freedom. For more information please contact your local Red Cross office or go to the American Red Cross website at: <http://www.redcross.org/services/afes/> ☼



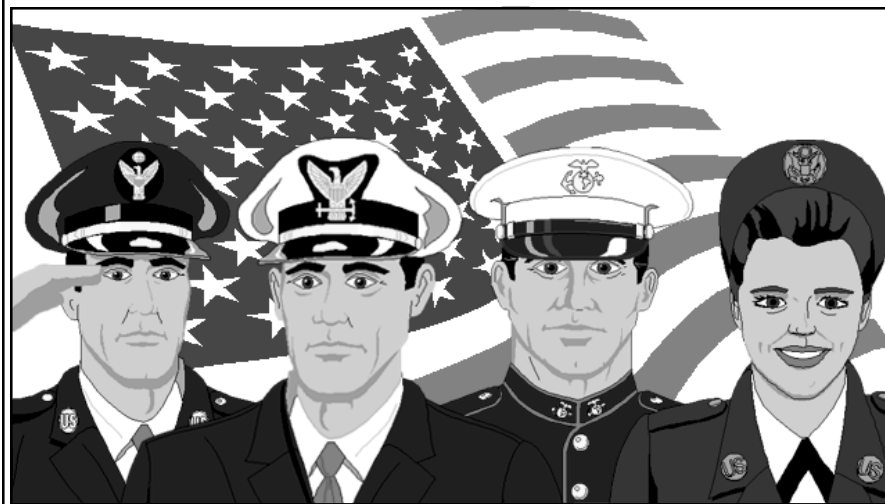
## Soldiers', Sailors' Civil Relief Act provides umbrella of protection

Story by Vernessa Barnes  
81st RSC, Family Readiness Office

Reserve component soldiers recalled to active duty in support of Operations Joint Forge, Joint Guardian or any other operation are protected by a law that can save them headaches and possibly more than just a few dollars. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act of 1940 makes provisions for soldiers in

reduced to a fixed rate of six percent. Soldiers must be able to demonstrate what is called "material effect". "Material effect" is a term that refers to how military service impacts people's lives and their ability to meet their obligations. Soldiers must be able to show their military income is less than their pre-service income and that the loss affects their ability to meet financial obligations.

To preclude personal, financial or



the loss of income.

In addition to the protections involving debt payments and civil litigation, the act guarantees service members the right to vote in the state of their home of record and protects them from paying taxes in two different states. Most provisions of the act are automatic, but those involving debt payments are not. Under the act, service members on active duty can have mortgage and credit card interest rates

legal problems deploying soldiers should contact their unit or installation legal assistance office to seek protection by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act of 1940.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act of 1940 is still one of the most powerful and protective tools service members have in asserting their rights under the law while on active duty. For more information, go to: [http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/Relief\\_Act](http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/Relief_Act). ☼



# Civilian employee battles war on homelessness

Story by Staff Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon  
81st RSC, PAO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – All over the world, Army Reservists are working on a daily basis to help defend our country and the people who live in it, but many might say that we rarely hear enough about the Army Reserve civilian employees who do the same. This story is just one example of how civilian employees who work for the Army Reserve are reaching out to the local community and are leaving an impressionable Army Reserve imprint.

## Lending a helping hand

Anita Barnes, a personnel technician at the Headquarters, 81st Regional Support Command (RSC), has been voluntarily helping the homeless for the past two-and-a-half years with the help of Maxine Myers; a close friend. She said she met Maxine at her local church Sunday school.

“After talking with Maxine, I found out what she was doing to help people in our area and I told her that I would like to give her a hand. That’s where it first started,” Barnes said. “Our first mission was at the Salvation Army downtown. Maxine showed me what she was doing in working with those who are incarcerated and their families. We talked about other groups of suffering people and decided to target the homeless people of Birmingham. We took another lady from our church, and my husband, and once we got there we had so many people coming up to us we couldn’t even get away from our car.”

## A team effort

Barnes said they passed out over 200 sandwiches that day and spent time talking with people who thought the rest of the world was just too busy to care about them. The idea to get out into the community by visiting jails was originally Myers’s, but once Barnes became involved the two of them made the idea of reaching out to other groups of needy people a reality.

“Not only do we provide food for the homeless, but we also give them clothing, especially during the winter



Photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon

**Anita Barnes, center, and Maxine Myers, left, pass out tomato sandwiches and soft drinks to the homeless at a local Birmingham park. Barnes and Myers fed over 100 people this day.**

months. All the clothing and food we give them is either donated to us or comes from our homes,” Barnes said.

## Heartfelt appreciation

During an interview with some of the homeless people that Barnes and Maxine have helped, a young lady, who asked not to be named, said, “What these ladies are doing is really good because a lot of us don’t have enough money to buy food for ourselves or our children. It’s really hard, but we enjoy when someone takes the time to come down and give us something to eat and talk to us. Thank God for them taking the time to come out and do this.”

“One of the reasons we do this is to help alleviate the suffering of others,” Barnes said. “You have to look at it like, the same way Jesus suffered on the cross or the same

way we are providing help to the people in Kosovo, that is the same way these people are suffering. It’s hard to love these people sometimes because some of them have done some bad things and that is why some of them are out here, but we are not out here to judge them. Only to give them a helping hand and tell them that Christ put the desire to be there to help them in our hearts. From there it’s up to them to make a positive change in their lives.”

## Showing support

Barnes said any civilian, soldier or Army Reserve unit that wants to voluntarily help the homeless in their community can start by going to the store, buying a jar of peanut butter and jelly and a loaf of bread, making some sandwiches and going to almost any local park. 🐾

# Racing to find a cure

## Civilian employee journeys to Africa to aid in finding cure for Alzheimer’s

Story by Elaine Brackin  
Dothan Progress Managing Editor

DOTHAN, Ala. – Bren Briggs, 34, an eight-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and currently a civilian employee with the 81st Regional Support Command’s 787th Combat Support Battalion, located in Dothan, prepares daily for one of the biggest challenges he has faced to date. Come April 2002, Briggs, who is also an Army Reserve 1st Lieutenant with the 851st Quartermaster Company, Fort Rucker, Ala., and 699 other participants from around the world will embark on a six-day, 150-mile trek across the Sahara Desert as they compete in the 17th Annual Marathon des Sables.

This event is considered the toughest foot race in the world. The field is limited to 700 entrants. Of those 700, only 50 can come from the United States. Briggs is one of those 50. Briggs pursues this challenge much as he has faced others in his young life. Perhaps it’s his military training or his background as a record-setting high school sprinter that drove Briggs to tackle the hot days and cold nights of this famous African desert. Or perhaps there is a much deeper meaning to why he would

drive himself daily to prepare for six days in the African sun on his 150-mile journey through the Sahara Desert. What causes Briggs to push his body to its limits is simple. He’s running and walking to fight Alzheimer’s disease.

“My grandfather, Lester Thomas, had it,” Briggs said as he reflected on the loss of his grandfather June 2nd of this year. “That brought it home more, but there is another person that is also in my thoughts. I’m always thinking of John Walker when I run. I love my grandfather, but I think of John Walker with every step I take when I’m out running. He’s my inspiration to do this. He was a resident at Somerset (Assisted Living). He forgot just about everything but his Bible. He was a preacher. A lot of times, Alzheimer patients will get mean, but John never got mean and nasty, even as the dementia worsened. He was always kind. He’s always with me when I’m running.”

But why put his body through such a grueling event as walking 150 miles through desert sand?

Why take a six-day journey that allows him to carry only what he can stuff in a backpack?

“Anybody can run in a marathon,” said Briggs, who is assisted in his training routine by his 10-year-old son, Bren, Jr. “I’m running them every other weekend as part of my training. When you talk about

marathons, people tend to just smile and ignore you, but, when I talk about traveling by foot for 150 miles in the Sahara Desert, I get people’s attention. Then, I can talk to them about Alzheimer’s. That is why I picked this event,” Briggs said. “I want to raise awareness about Alzheimer’s. We are so close

**“I want to raise awareness about Alzheimer’s. We are so close to finding a cure.”**

Bren Briggs



Photo courtesy of The Dothan Press

**Bren Briggs runs along a 5-K trail as he prepares for the Marathon des Sables.**

to finding a cure. We can take care of people if we can fund the research to find a cure. I want to raise money for that research effort.” The death of his grandfather and of his good friend, John Walker, made the disease real to Briggs. So real, in fact, that this trek through the desert isn’t just an adventure for him. “This is something I feel is a mission God gave to me,” Briggs said. “Not everyone can go out and run in this, but they can contribute monetarily or by donating equipment that I will need for the Marathon des Sables. I want to give them that opportunity to be a part of this, to take part in this mission to help others.” 🐾



# Country singer jumps back into Army of One

**Story by Lee Elder**  
Nashville U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion  
FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – Country singer Craig Morgan returned to service with the U.S. Army in spectacular style, marking the occasion with a tandem jump with members of the Army’s Golden Knights parachute team at Fort Campbell.

Morgan took his oath of enlistment into the Army Reserve after jumping 14,000 feet, attached to a member of the Golden Knights tandem team. He will now serve part-time with the 81st Regional Support Command’s Nashville based 861st Quartermaster Company (Air Equipment Repair and Supply) while continuing his music career. Morgan’s musical hits include “Something to Write Home About” and the autobiographical “Paradise.”

“I’m real proud of the Army. That’s why I’m back,” Morgan said in a news release. He was sworn in by Lt. Col. J. Kirk Burton who commands the Nashville U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion and was officially

welcomed to the unit by its commander, 1st Lt. Harold Turks. Turks presented Morgan with the unit’s maroon beret. Morgan served in the Army for 10 years before leaving active duty in 1996 to pursue a career in music. He was a field artillery fire support specialist and served at Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Polk, La., Korea and Fort Campbell.

In his song Paradise, he wrote about his experiences in 1990 when he served in Operation Just Cause, the U.S. military effort to oust Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega. The song became the second single off his self-titled debut album last year. Morgan performed an acoustic version of the song following his tandem jump while he ate lunch with members of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Division Artillery.

“The military has played such a big part in my life,” Morgan said afterward. “I’m really proud to be in this new unit.” Morgan, who is jumpmaster

**“I’m real proud of the Army. That’s why I’m back.”**

Staff Sgt. Craig Morgan



Photos by Lee Elder

**First Lieutenant Harold Turks, commander of the 861st Quartermaster Company presents Morgan, right, with a maroon beret, marking the country singer’s entry into the airborne Army Reserve unit.**

qualified, will be trained as an automated supply specialist, according to the unit’s administrator, Ava Vaughn. He will continue to serve as a staff sergeant, the rank he held when he left active duty five years ago.

For his part, Burton said he was pleased to put the finishing touch on Morgan’s return to the Army. “We’re here to put good people in

the regular Army and Army Reserve,” Burton said. “I’m delighted to help bring Craig back into the Army family. Craig is a textbook example of how a young person can take what he learns in the Army and successfully apply it to any facet of civilian life.”

Morgan is currently working on his second album, which he hopes to have out in the fall. 🐾

## Ambassador spreads word of pirate ship wreckage recovery

**Story by Paul Adams**  
81st RSC PAO

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. – An 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) Army Reserve Ambassador, Tyrone Rowell of Wilmington, N.C., recently played an instrumental roll in publicizing the recovery of a cannon from the ship wreckage, Queen Anne’s Revenge, off the North Carolina coast. Queen Anne’s Revenge was one of Black Beard’s pirate ships that terrorized passengers and plundered merchant ships in the early 1700s.

Rowell’s role was securing the assets of the 824th Transportation Company, Morehead City, N.C., to allow media to view, photograph and document divers and scientists from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) in the recovery operation. Rowell is a Senior Associate Vice Chancellor at UNCW.

The 824th’s Landing Craft Utility (LCU) was

used as a platform for approximately 100 people for the three-hour trip, which included electronic and print media from Eastern North Carolina,



scientists from the UNCW and cannon restoration specialists from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Recourses. The LCU is designed to off load cargo from ships in anchor.

“Ironically, the unit’s home base is only two miles from the final wreck site,” Rowell said. “The LCUs must have traveled over the site many times.”

In order to obtain the exposure for the Army Reserve during this historic occasion, Rowell visited media in the three-county area surrounding Wilmington two weeks prior to the operation to invite participation in the recovery effort. “We received extensive coverage from the T.V. and print media from this historic salvage operation,” Rowell said.

The Army Reserve Ambassador Program is a part of the Chief, Army Reserve’s (CAR) effort to select key leaders at the local and state level to serve as the CAR’s local eyes, ears and voice in the community. They promote the goals and objectives of the Chief, Army Reserve to tell the Army Reserve story to the community.

There are 19 Army Reserve Ambassadors in the eight-state area of the 81st RSC. 🐾

## MPs to the rescue

**Right: Staff Sergeant Elaina Back, left, 450th Military Police (MP) Company in Nashville, Tenn.; Sgt. James C. Couch, right, 379th MP Detachment in Tallahassee, Fla.; and Sgt. 1st Class David N. Christopher, center, 160th MP Battalion in Tallahassee, Fla., wave a car through as they guard the entrance to the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) in Birmingham, Ala. They are just some of the reservists who left their civilian lives behind to protect their Country in its time of need after the September 11th attack. Back, Couch, and Christopher are just three of the many Army Reservists who help keep America and the 81st RSC safe through their sacrifice and continual dedication to duty. (Photo by Sgt. Scott Fisk, 81st RSC PAO)**





# *Providing support in the midst of disaster*

## **81st RSC soldiers lend helping hand in time of national disaster**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – From the ashes and smoke of the September 11th terrorist attack on the United States arose many heroes and a new way of living for many of its citizens. Two of these heroes were Army Reservists who had no idea how a trip to Manhattan, N.Y., to help a fellow soldier would change their lives forever.

On September 10th, Rick Pace, acting information management officer for the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) and Army Reserve Sergeant Major for the Deputy Chief of Staff Logistics office, flew to New York to be admitted into Beth Israel Medical Center, which is about four miles from where the World Trade Towers stood, to have a serious surgical procedure performed on his throat. Having no idea of what would occur on September 11th, Pace arranged to have his family fly to New York on September 12th to be with him; then it happened.

“I was watching the morning news and I got a call from my Sunday school teacher in Pelham, Ala., and we were talking about how I was doing and I saw the first tower flash report come up on the news, and at first I didn’t know what I was watching,” Pace said. “Then quickly I realized it was an attack on the trade center and I was shocked that it was happening. Then a little later I saw tower two get hit and I was just astonished.”

Pace, being only four miles away from the World Trade Centers, was now deeply concerned for his safety and the safety of his family if they came to be with him. After talking to his wife, Glenda, and realizing how much she wanted to be there to support him, he overlooked his fears and they started to talk about ways she could get to New York.

“After talking to some of my co-workers at the 81st, I knew something was being worked on late Wednesday afternoon to get my wife and daughter to New York, but I didn’t know all the details until late that night,” Pace said. “I found out that Captain Shanahan and Chaplain Winter had volunteered to drive them down.”

“Wednesday after work I received a call from my boss to see if I would volunteer to drive Mrs. Pace to New York to be with her husband because they couldn’t fly due to the airports being closed after the terrorist attack. Well, Mr. Pace is a good friend and because I’m always looking to help him out I didn’t even hesitate. I said yes I would do it,” said Capt. Adrian Shanahan, operation staff officer for the 81st RSC Deputy Chief of Staff Engineer section.

Chaplain (Maj.) Glenn Winter, chaplain executive officer for 110th Chaplain Detachment located in Birmingham, said once he heard of the situation he didn’t think twice about helping either.

“I found out about Sgt. Maj. Pace’s situation from Chaplain Nelson (81st RSC Chaplain) around 16:30 on Wednesday and he also told me about Glenda having a hard time getting a rental car to travel to New York to see Sgt. Maj. Pace. I told him earlier that day that if he needed me for anything he could give me a call. As soon as I received his call explaining the situation I didn’t hesitate to help,” Winter said.

After Winter rendezvoused with Shanahan, Glenda, and Pace’s daughter Nashley in Birmingham they departed on their journey to New York. The trip took them about 15 hours, but for them the reason for the trip outweighed the distance.

“Once we reached Mr. Pace, who was staying in an apartment across from the hospital, we spent a little time with him. That Thursday night Chaplain Winter and myself were adamant about getting down to the disaster area to help out in some way. So that is what we did. We changed out of our traveling clothes and into our BDU’s and we walked for about four to five miles passing through check point after check point because the security in the area was very tight, but we were able to get into Ground Zero,” Shanahan said.

With help of their Battle Dress Uniforms (BDU) and

military identification they were able to get past the guard posts and into Ground Zero.

“Once we got in we started talking to some of the firemen in the area and one of the first things they told us was that if we hear three blasts of a horn to start running for your life. The reason they said that was because we were standing near the Millennium Hotel and another federal building that had been destabilized by the towers collapsing,” Shanahan said.

Winter added that once they were inside of Ground Zero he received the opportunity to visit and pray with some of the rescue workers, but it didn’t last very long. From out of the smoke and darkness arose a sound that caught the attention of everyone on site.

“Well after finding out about the three horn blast



Photo courtesy of Capt. Adrian Shanahan

**Chaplain Glenn Winter (left) and Capt. Adrian Shanahan (right) stand on the steps of St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York.**

warning, sure enough, a little later we heard the three horn blast. We were standing right there, 30 yards from the shadow of this 54 story Millennium Hilton. We all took off and started running as far away as we could get and just waited to see what was going to happen. Thankfully the building didn’t fall,” Shanahan said.

“Amazingly, as soon as we got the all clear all the volunteers went right back to work. Working in the shadow of this building that was just about to fall on them. That was the spirit of all the workers out there. They were not going to stop for anything,” Shanahan said. “The spirit of everyone there was just powerful because they were all volunteers wanting to help anyway they could. There were New York police and fire fighters there, union guys, brick workers and soldiers.”

Shanahan added that there were some civilians who were trying to get in, but many of them were turned back because of fear that some of them might be trying to get in to loot some of the stores that were damaged.

After returning to Ground Zero, Shanahan and Winter were approached by a man wearing a white firemen’s hat. He turned out to be a New York Fire Department (FDNY) Fire Chief.

“The fire chief came up to me and said, ‘Sir, I need your help,’ and he pointed behind me. There was a building sort of above us, but behind us a little bit, and there was a large mass of steel I-beams dangling off to the side and he said they were afraid those beams would come loose and fall and kill people. Because of that they wanted the whole street where we were standing secured until the beams could be removed,” Shanahan said. “He asked me if I could take on that mission. I told him I would, and with the help of the Chaplain we got everyone to move back about two hundred yards. This wasn’t easy because everyone was still in shock and wanted to do something to help, so there was an eagerness of the heart that you had to overcome.”

Shanahan said while they were waiting to get back into Ground Zero they began to come up with a plan for the heavy equipment that would have to be used. “We began to start coordinating our actions for when we got the all clear. I told the guy with the light sets that he could get set

up on the corner on the right side shining his light right to left; the men with the bulldozers to have their bulldozers going down the middle of the street; and the bucket loaders to pick up here and feed off to the left filling up the dump trucks. So we were coordinating all this stuff and it was really great. The Chaplain and myself were in the right place at the right time to help out as much as we could,” Shanahan said.

“It felt great to be able to help out. We were tired from driving all night, but we didn’t mind. The size of the devastation was unbelievable. I still can’t believe it. It’s still shocking. The first half hour I was there I felt a sense of fear. They were talking about buildings falling and there was so much chaos and so much going on it was a little overwhelming to the senses. After about an half an hour I started to calm down and when we got the mission to secure the street it really helped me to get my mind off things.”

After helping out at the site until midnight, Shanahan and Winter left to get some food and rest. The next day they spent time with Pace and his family.

“We prayed with the Pace family before Sgt. Maj. Pace’s surgery. We stayed by his family’s side to make sure they had everything they needed. I also stayed with Sgt. Maj. Pace that night because his wife and daughter were not allowed to stay in the hospital room because it was a male’s room and there was another male patient in there with Sgt. Maj. Pace,” Winter said.

The next day Shanahan and Winter went to the New York City National Guard Armory, where many of the family members of the missing were gathering. Shanahan said there were hundreds of pictures of people missing in the tragedy plastered on the walls of the armory.

“Being raised in Long Island, N.Y., I felt lucky and honored to be there to help. Because I lived in the area I was also afraid that some of my friends might have been hurt or killed in the towers. It was just an overwhelming since of sadness because of the national tragedy and all these innocent people that were missing. If there was anything we could do to help we were going to make it our duty to do it,” Shanahan said. Reflecting back on seeing Ground Zero for the first time Shanahan said, “The thing I remember is seeing layer after layer of ash, notes, computer paper, memos, pictures and personal items all over the place. It was a shocking site. I have never seen anything like it. I thought, well if I ever saw anything that would be tough to look at during my military career it would be on foreign soil, not sixty miles from where I grew up.”

Winter said he was fortunate enough to be able to minister to a number of the families at the armory that had a family member missing in the attack. He was also able to minister to some of the New York National Guardsmen helping out at Ground Zero.

“There will definitely be a continuing need for ministry to several thousand family members of the missing and dead from the World Trade Centers over the coming weeks. Army Chaplains can help meet this need, in a civilian capacity, if they have the right credentials,” Winter said.

After making sure the Pace family had a way to get back home Shanahan and Winter returned back to Birmingham, but they continued to stay in contact with Pace and his family.

“I think what these soldiers did was exceptional. They had choices to do many other things besides going down to Ground Zero while they were in New York, but that is what they chose to do. If I was able to go with them I would have, but my illness caused me to be unable to do anything extremely physical,” Pace said. “I really do consider them to be heroes. I can’t thank them enough for what they did for my family and me and I’m sure the families of the missing in New York feel the same. I pray God blesses them and their families for not only being outstanding soldiers, but great Americans.”

Shanahan and Winter were presented the Meritorious Service Medal from Maj. Gen. James W. Darden, former commander of the 87th Division, Birmingham, Ala., for their meritorious service and support of the Pace family and the city officials of New York City. 🇺🇸



# Operation Bright Smile

## Reservists provide dental services to Indian reservation

Story by Sgt. 1st Class D. Keith Johnson  
204th MPAD

ROSEBUD INDIAN RESERVATION, S.D. – For the U.S. Army Reserve, lending a helping hand is not something new. Today, Reserve soldiers are practicing their skills, and at the same time, helping in communities throughout the United States.

Members of two U.S. Army Reserve units, the 333rd Medical Company (Dental) from Savannah, Ga., and the 309th Combat Support Hospital, from Hanscom Air Force Base near Bedford, Mass., participated in Operation Walking Shield by providing medical and dental care to residents of the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

At the Rosebud Medical Center, the reservists supplemented the full-time staff of the center. The reservists worked in the dental clinic, pharmacy, outpatient, administration and in surgery.

Lieutenant Colonel Bernice Scales, a dentist from Albany, Ga., and her crew of dental assistants from the 333rd performed various dental procedures at the clinic. Extractions, permanent and temporary fillings and x-rays were

the most common activities. Lieutenant Colonel William Bornstein also worked in the dental clinic with the group from the 333rd. “These soldiers have done procedures here they’ve never performed before,” said Bornstein. “This is good training for them.”

Bornstein, a dentist from Manchester, N.H., is a dentist with the 309th.

The members of the 333rd expected to see approximately 40 patients over the two-week period. They had an understanding of what to expect from members of their units who were there on previous rotations.

“They gave us information on the facilities, patients, and especially the location of the clinic,” said Scales. “They did say it was remote.”

Rosebud is two-and-a-half hours from Rapid City, S.D., a drive that goes through parts of the Badlands of South Dakota.

Twin brothers, DJ and PJ Jones, 12, came in together to the dental clinic. They were in cubicles next to each, both getting fillings. “I was nervous until I found out what I was getting, then I was okay,” said PJ. DJ finished before his brother and came by his brother’s side to observe and lend support. An aunt who works at the dental clinic comforted the twins, from

**“These soldiers have done procedures here they’ve never performed before.”**

Lt. Col. William Bornstein



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class D. Keith Johnson

**Lieutenant Colonel William Bornstein, right, works on a patient with assistance from Spc. Laquinda Hendry, left, a reservist with the 333rd, at the dental clinic located on the Indian reservation.**

Soldier Creek, S.D.

Operation Walking Shield is one part of the larger military Civil-Military Innovative Readiness Training programs. These programs are conducted within the United States, its territories and possessions by the U.S. Armed Forces, especially

the Reserve Components.

The IRT programs provide “hands-on” readiness training opportunities for the soldiers and units involved, while simultaneously providing a direct and lasting benefit to the communities in which IRT missions are conducted. 🐾

## Training exercise takes soldiers to the heat of battle

Master Sgt. Nestor Tamayao  
304th MPAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis. – A large map of Saudi Arabia faces you from the easel. The noncommissioned officer conducting the briefing talks about the local customs and although the room is warm, it is not as hot as it is outside. Beads of sweat roll down your nose and your mind wanders as you gaze outside through the window when all of a sudden you hear “...and welcome to Fort McCoy and Exercise Silver Scimitar 2001.”

### Orientation

The briefing is what every soldier received when in-processing for Silver Scimitar and was the beginning to other events soldiers experienced throughout the exercise.

Referred to as the Army’s largest administrative personnel exercise, Silver Scimitar was conducted at Fort McCoy in late July and involved over 1,100 Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers from 16 states.

Participating in the exercise were units from the 81st Regional Support Command, Birmingham, Ala. The units included the 3rd Personnel Command (PERSCOM), 678TH Personnel Services Battalion, 461st Personnel Services Battalion and the

310th Personnel Group (AG).

During the first several days prior to the actual exercise start date, soldiers negotiated a confidence course, received training on force protection techniques, combat lifesaving, nuclear biological and chemical protection, leadership and communication skills and military vehicle drivers’ training. The exercise also provided training opportunities on a variety of other personnel systems.

### Silver Scimitar

Silver Scimitar was designed to simulate the mobilization of soldiers to Southwest Asia. It tests personnel systems and soldiers’ capabilities through a series of scenarios and training. The seasonally hot weather at Fort McCoy provides soldiers the experience of working in temperatures similar to those in Southwest Asia.

### The Battle Begins

The exercise depicts a battlefield that suffers heavy casualties. The 3rd PERSCOM and its subordinate units are tasked to conduct operations to maintain theater personnel readiness, and to sustain and maintain personnel support systems. Silver Scimitar challenges commanders, leaders and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michele Hammond

**Silver Scimitar 2001 soldiers adjust their NBC mask as they learn how to survive on a battlefield contaminated by NBC agents.**

soldiers in areas such as security, logistics and equipment maintenance while continuing to perform essential tasks in a combat environment.

A provisional personnel and administration battalion in the mid-80s developed Silver Scimitar. The battalion was assigned by 3rd Army to become a provisional personnel command, according to Col. James Greenwood, 3rd PERSCOM deputy commander.

### Wartime Mission

“The battalion became involved in various training activities to prepare soldiers for their new provisional PERSCOM wartime mission and found that the exercises, although helpful, did not provide the in-depth theater-level procedural and systems training the

soldiers needed,” said Greenwood. “So the provisional battalion staff designed a training program in conjunction with the 3rd Army AG and decided to have an exercise of its own that focused on theater personnel systems,” he said. “We developed this exercise to provide theater level procedural and systems training for personnel units.”

### Location Success

Greenwood said the first exercise was conducted at Eglin Air Force base in Florida and subsequent exercises were held at other locations. With the exercise’s complexity and scope increasing dramatically, it was moved to Fort McCoy because of the base’s larger facilities. 🐾



# Bon voyage

## 81st RSC reservists participate in strategic mobility exercise

Story by Col. Richard M. Etheridge  
375th Transportation Group

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – Each year Forces Command (FORSCOM) funds Sealift Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises (SEDRE) to test and validate the joint readiness of various Active and Reserve Component units supporting Strategic Mobility. With more than two-thirds of the Army's Transportation forces being part of the Reserve Component, the Army Reserve's 375th Transportation Group from Mobile, Ala., was designated to provide command and control for the reception, staging and onward Movement (RSO) portion of the Dragon Team (DT) 01-08 SEDRE.

### Mission Begins

Dragon Team 01-08 was part of the Third Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade's National Training Center (NTC) rotation. The 3rd Brigade, task organized as the 3rd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) for this exercise, is based at Fort Benning, Ga. Their deployment to NTC was a four-phased deployment exercise consisting of a pre-deployment move to the seaport of embarkation (the Port of Savannah, Ga.), an upload, movement to the seaport of debarkation (Port Hueneme, Calif.) and a final move to Fort Irwin, Calif. The 375th Transportation Group's mission was to command and control reception, staging and onward movement (RSO) of the BCT's equipment and vehicles from Port Hueneme to Fort Irwin for their integration into rotation 01-08.

The 375th Transportation Group provided the OPLAN and overall operational control for the



Photo by Col. Richard M. Etheridge

**Soldiers from the 257th Transportation Company (center) from Las Vegas, Nev., load and secure M2 Bradleys to the back of Heavy Equipment Transports (HET) during SEDRE 2001.**

exercise. This task equated to coordinating cargo handoff and logistical support responsibilities between battalions, providing liaison with outside agencies, and monitoring mission planning and execution for regulatory compliance.

### Phase II

The second part of the 375th's mission was to stage the equipment for onward movement to Fort Irwin. The 375th's logistics section worked with the maintenance sections of units involved in the exercise to ensure all the transportation equipment was inspected and certified to standards. Some of the equipment was loaded onto M872 trailers (also known as 18-wheelers), chained down and staged in marshaling areas. Other equipment was refueled,

matched-up with organic trailers and staged for drive-away operations.

### Mission Complete

The last phase of the 375th's mission was the onward movement to Fort Irwin. Onward movement is the most dangerous. The entire mission was completed on time and without an accident or incident.

Many of the reservists participating in SEDRE 2001 said they gained a better understanding of the complexities and importance of Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration operations during a wartime deployment, where cargo volume and operations tempo can be significantly beyond levels experienced in a training situation. 🐾

# 81st RSC adds new flavor to annual Drivers' Rodeo

Story by Staff Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon  
81st RSC PAO

GULFPORT, Miss. – As some soldiers throughout the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) gathered in Gulfport to demonstrate their astonishing driving abilities, others gathered to give everyone a taste of what they do to help keep Army Reservists physically ready to accomplish their missions.

The 81st RSC recently held its annual Drivers' Rodeo at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport where approximately 70 soldiers participated to see who was the best military vehicle driver in the RSC. The grand champion of this years Drivers Rodeo was Staff Sgt. Kenneth Thames from the 415th Chemical Brigade, Greenville, S.C. Thames said it was a great honor to win the competition and he looks forward to competing and helping out again in the future.

The 81st RSC also held a new competition this year in conjunction with the Drivers' Rodeo that dealt less with driving ability and more with cooking ability.

This year the 81st RSC held its first Cook-off Competition, along with its annual Drivers Rodeo, where 10 units under the 81st RSC competed to see who knew their way around the "field" kitchen the best.

"The 81st RSC has 11 major subordinate commands. 10 of those units have field cooking capabilities. All of these units have been evaluated by the 81st in an actual field situation over the last nine months for the Conley

Competition. This is just another chance for them to come together and showcase their cooking talents," said Chief Warrant Officer Four Daniel Ormsby, officer in charge of the Cook-off. Ormsby is also a Command Food Advisor with the 81st RSC.

"We thought this would be a great training opportunity for the units. It was actually General Mayo's idea to include this as part of the Drivers Rodeo," Ormsby said. "He said it would be a great opportunity to give the units a chance to bring their families down to Gulfport and let them see what their mission for the Army Reserve is and to also give them a chance to have some fun."

Ormsby said they judged the units on their work attitude, sanitation, procedures, food presentation and palatability. He added that the reservists were also given job knowledge exams and their noncommissioned officers in charge were individually interviewed.

"All the units were given the same menu to prepare. They each had to

prepare mashed potatoes, green beans, Salisbury steak, salad and ginger bread. Each unit's family members got to eat the food they prepared," Ormsby said. Together, the units prepared enough food to feed 400 people.

The winner of the Cook-Off Competition was the 314th Chemical Company from Carrollton, Ga. Staff Sgt. Timothy C. Walters, NCOIC of the 314th, said they were honored to win and enjoyed the training they received from the competition.

This is the first time many of my soldiers have competed in a competition. We recently competed

**"Together, the units prepared enough food to feed 400 people."**

Chief Warrant Officer Four Daniel Ormsby



Photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon

**Sergeant Harvey Rogers, 658th Quartermaster Company, prepares potatoes to be boiled and made into mashed potatoes at the Drivers' Rodeo.**

in the Conley Competition, so that gave them some idea of what we going to be doing here," Walters said. "Also being side-by-side with the units we were competing against was good because we got to see how they operate under pressure. It also gave us a chance to see how the other units operate in the field. Overall, it was a great experience."

The 2002 Cook-Off Competition and Drivers Rodeo are scheduled to take place in Savannah, Ga., in June at Hunter Army Air Field. 🐾



# MAKERS

## Supply Excellence Award

WASHINGTON – Fourteen Army Reserve units were recognized at the 16th Annual Chief of Staff, Army Supply Excellence Award Ceremony, held in Washington. The 81st Regional Support Command's 361st Quartermaster Battalion from Montgomery, Ala., was one of the units recognized at the award ceremony held in Washington.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki presented an award to each winning and runner-up unit in each Active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard category at the ceremony.

The 361st was runner-up in the Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) Company With Property Book category.

The Army's Supply Excellence Award (SEA) was created in 1986 to recognize excellence in unit supply operations. The program's sponsor is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Supply and Maintenance Directorate. Its executive agent is the Quartermaster Center and School.

Co-sponsors of the SEA Ceremony are the Department of the Army and the National Defense Industrial Association.

The objectives of the Supply Excellence Award are to enhance logistical readiness of all Army units, enforce the Command Supply Discipline Program, utilize available resources, and provide a structure for recognition of group and individual initiatives.

(By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen, OCAR PLAD)

## Maintenance of Excellence

WASHINGTON – "You set a bar that's mighty high for anyone who wants to sit here next year."

That is how Gen. Eric K. Shinseki addressed the representatives of the 23 maintenance teams gathered together to be recognized as the Army's best maintainers. Seven of those 23 teams are in the Army Reserve and two of those 23 belong to the 81st Regional Support Command. The two units

are the Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA) 121-G North Charleston, S.C., and the 414th Transportation Company, Orangeburg, S.C.

The 34th Chief of Staff of the Army made this comment at the 19th annual Army Chief of Staff Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) ceremony, held here July 18.

AMSA 121-G was the winner of the U.S. Army Active, TDA (light category) and the 414th Transportation Company was the runner-up for the U.S. Army Reserve, MTO&E (light category).

Representatives from each winning and runner-up unit received an award plaque from Shinseki and Lt. Gen. Charles S. Mahan, Army Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics. Assisting with the award presentations were Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley and Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy D. Ayers, Command Sergeant Major of the Ordnance Center and School. The National Defense Industrial Association, industry sponsor of the award, donated the plaques.

The Army Chief of Staff Award for Maintenance Excellence is a two-phased competitive program to select the best Army maintenance programs. The competition measures unit level maintenance operations and their performance in accordance with the Army's standard maintenance policies and procedures. Areas evaluated include readiness, maintenance management, maintenance training, leadership, and innovation.

(By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen, OCAR PLAD)

## Tribute to a beloved Chaplain

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. – Soldiers of the West Palm Beach based 3220th U.S. Army Garrison Support Unit (GSU) joined with family and friends of deceased Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Candido Enriquez-Vasquez Jr. to pay tribute at his memorial service, August 5, 2001.

Many came to the 3220th GSU drill hall to show their admiration and pay respect to a soldier who left a lasting impression on those who knew him. "Chaplain Enriquez was a caring and devoted chaplain who offered spiritual support

and guidance in a loving and gentle manner to all soldiers he served," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Alan Sherman, retired. "He will be remembered as a humble servant of God who put the needs of others before himself. May his memory forever be a blessing."

Tributes and memories were presented by Col. Edwin R. Marrero, 3220th GSU Commander; Pastor Juan Labrador, Chaplain (Maj.) Alvin Miller, 3220th GSU Chaplain; Chaplain (Col.) Tommy Smith, 81st Regional Support Command, Birmingham, Ala.; and Mrs. Nancy Enriquez, Chaplain Enriquez's wife. Each speaker's words gave comfort to many who felt the loss of Chaplain Enriquez.

Marrero led a roll call of the unit's directorates, and then softly and clearly, "Taps" was played for a beloved soldier. Chaplain Enriquez is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughter, Marisol; and stepsons, Pablo and Juan.

(Story by Master Sgt. Kenneth W. Russ, 3220th GSU)

## Employer Support

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – First Lieutenant Lawrence McKiernan, a reservist with the 926th Engineer Battalion, located in Birmingham, and a sales manager with Dudley C. Jackson, Inc., nominated the president of his company, Ken Jackson, and his employer, Dudley C. Jackson, Inc., for a military award for their continued support of his activities with the U.S. Army Reserve.

Lieutenant Colonel Joe Chesnut, battalion commander of the 926th, presented Jackson with his official battalion coin and Dudley C. Jackson, Inc., with a certificate of recognition on behalf of the men and women of America's Reserve forces, for their outstanding service to the national defense through continued support of the National Guard and Reserve. McKiernan was also present during the award presentation.

(By Staff Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon, 81st RSC PAO)

# Kudzu Run XVIII

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Scotty Johnson  
81st RSC PAO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The Headquarters, 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) recently had some of its soldiers take to the streets to show their hearts by using their feet.

Approximately 50 soldiers laced up their sneakers to take part in the 18th Annual Kudzu Run and Car Show benefiting Camp Smile-A-Mile, a camp for children diagnosed with Leukemia. Individually, 15 soldiers ran for competition, while the others ran in a military formation to show their support for the cause.

"Just knowing that it was for a good cause and that it would help to put a smile on the faces of kids that are fighting cancer motivated me to participated," said Staff Sgt. Kimberly Mercado, a soldier with the

Headquarters, 81st RSC. "I hope that this helps bring them closer to a cure and I look forward to running again next year."

The 81st RSC soldiers ran to support one of their own children. Evens McVay, son of Sgt. 1st Class Kathy Hardy, a member of the

Headquarters, 81st RSC, was diagnosed with leukemia, but is in remission at this time. He has attended Camp Smile-A-Mile several times. The soldiers wore buttons with Evens picture on their physical training uniforms.

Captain Bryan Despain, Headquarters, 81st RSC command executive officer, who finished the race 31st overall said, "My wife had cancer last year and was treated with chemotherapy and radiation treatment, so, my son Jamie and I are



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Scotty Johnson

**Soldiers from the Headquarters, 81st RSC, run in formation as they near the finish line during the Kudzu Run XVIII.**

very conscious of the struggle the children at Camp Smile-A-Mile are facing. I was proud to run with Jamie and he was excited to win a second place trophy for his age group."

Competitive runners from the 81st RSC fared well against the competition. Whizzing in with a finishing time of 19:48, Maj. Steven Hester, assistant staff judge advocate, finished first of the 81st

RSC and 20th overall. 1st Lt. Wiliam Morris, plans officer for the office of the deputy chief of staff of engineers, blazed his way to a second place finish among the 81st RSC competitors and 27th overall with a finishing time of 20:12. Capt. Bryan Despain, headquarters commandant executive officer, pounded out a third place finish in the 81st RSC and 31st overall. 🐾



# ROUNDUP

## 3rd PERSCOM

JACKSON, Miss. – 3rd Personnel Command (PERSCOM), Jackson, Miss., soldiers took two of the top four places in the 3rd PERSCOM hosted Drivers Rodeo in Jackson, Miss. Staff Sgt. Calvin Priest took first place in the Light Category (HMMV with trailer). Sgt. David Post, Detachment 1, 678th Personnel Services Battalion, followed him in second place, and Pfc. Joshua Winchester, 312th Adjutant General (AG) Company came in third.

Sergeant Stacey Manigo took first place in the Material Handling Equipment (MHE) Forklift Category (4K division). Pfc. James Crona, 351st AG Company, took second place and Spc. Foy Thomas, 336th AG Company, took third.

Sergeant Willie Flowers, 912th AG Company, took first place in the Medium Category (2-1/2 ton truck with trailer). Spec. Jonathon McDill, 982nd Replacement Company, took second and Pfc. Buster Hobson, 324th Replacement Battalion took third.

Specialist Morris Hamrick, 449th AG Company, took first in the MHE Forklift Category (10K division). Spc. Christopher Schlemmer, 721st AG Company, took second and Spc. Travis Durante, 342nd AG Company, took third.

**(By Maj. Karen Magruder, 3rd PERSCOM, PAO)**

JACKSON, Miss. – Several soldiers of the 3rd Personnel Command (PERSCOM), located in Jackson, worked with civilian volunteers from around the state on a Blitz Build targeted to create the Kid Zone Playground at Lefleur's Bluff State Park located in Jackson.

"Our soldiers were on site to help out twice," said team leader Capt. James Galluzzo, of the 3rd PERSCOM. "We were part of over 1,000 volunteers who created a major playground for the children of Mississippi to enjoy on family outings or school field trips."

**(By Maj. Karen Magruder, 3rd PERSCOM, PAO)**

### 310th Adjutant General Group

FORT JACKSON, S.C. – A 30-year Army veteran was inaugurated as the new commander of the 310th Adjutant General Group, located at Fort Jackson, during a ceremony Nov. 4 at Darby Field.

Before taking the new post, Col. Robert A. Cardamone was the Chief of Staff for the 99th Regional Support Command in Oakdale, Pa.

Cardamone outlined his priorities for the 310th and told more than 100 soldiers gathered at the change of command ceremony that teaching and mentoring soldiers is the key to successful leadership.

Cardamone replaced Col. Leonette W. Slay, who has been named the Assistant Chief of Staff, G1, for the 87th Training Division in Birmingham, Ala.

Slay supervised the 310th as it grew from 10 soldiers two years ago to its current strength of more than 100. The outgoing commander congratulated her soldiers on their success and thanked them for their patience.

**(By Spc. Tyrone Walker, 319th MPAD)**

## 81st RSC

ORLANDO, Fla. – Members of the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) Personnel Management Division from Birmingham, Ala., held a three-day Senior Full-Time Unit Support (FTUS) Professional Development Training Conference at the Hilton Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla.

Some of the classes given were on New Employee Training, Orientation & Sponsorship, Becoming a Coach Quiz, Family Medical Leave Act, Exceptional Family Member Program/Compassionate Reassignment and Conditional Promotions Qualitative Management Programs, Training and Mentoring Employees for Personal Growth & Career Progression and Retirement Planning, Procedures & Processing to name a few.

Major General Michael R. Mayo, commander of the 81st RSC, supported the training by giving some remarks at the conference. According to Ida TyreeHyche, chief of personnel management division for the 81st RSC, the conference was well attended.

TyreeHyche looked around the room with a smile on her face, as she uttered this quote that could be heard by all: "Learning is finding out what you already know. Doing is demonstrating that you know it. Teaching is reminding others that they know it just as well as you."

Holding the microphone close to her as she spoke slowly making sure every word was heard, TyreeHyche said, "The conference is geared for the senior full-time unit support managers and provides updated guidance on career management starting from the hiring process all the way to retirement process, to include the disciplinary action process, grievances and appeals."

She also wanted it understood as she looked across the room, "This is not a workshop on 'How To Do, but How To Review,' that was the goal, and I believe we can achieve that goal through this conference."

**(By Staff Sgt. Lorraine M. Hill, 204th MPAD)**

## 640th ASG

### 125th Transportation Company

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Drill weekend during May 2001 was both busy and productive for the Lexington based 125th Transportation Company Commander, Capt. Mark Ritter. After the unit commanders had completed their briefs, the Group Commander presented two distinguished awards to Ritter for his unit's outstanding performance. One was Runner-up for the Fiscal Year 1999 U.S. Army Reserve Command, Army Award for Maintenance Excellence in Light MTOE Category, and the other was the U.S. Forces Command, The Commanding General's Second Place Award for Maintenance Excellence.

The unit is presently converting from a cargo handling company to a medium truck bulk petroleum unit. Under the previous MTOE their responsibilities included transporting cargo by air, rail or motor carrier, and maintaining continuity of documentation where change in carriers occurred.

Ritter said, "Both awards set the baseline for future challenges as fuel haulers." This is not the first time the unit has been cited for excellent performance. Other awards include the 1997 Department of Army Light Density Maintenance Excellence Award, 1999 Department of Army Runner-Up Award for Maintenance Excellence and the 1999 Runner-Up Award for Maintenance Excellence given by the 81st Regional Support Command. Soldier strength is maintained at 100 percent or better and is a testament to the morale and training efforts of the soldiers of such a productive unit.

**(By Lt. Col. Ken Tarkington, 640th ASG)**

### 373rd Quartermaster Battalion

TULLAHOMA, Tenn. – Annual training for the 373rd Quartermaster Battalion, Louisville, Ky., was held in Tullahoma at the Arnold Air Force Base National Guard

training facility. During the training Col. Paul Boyd (Ret) of the Tennessee Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) gave members of the 373rd and various subordinate units a briefing of their rights and responsibilities as uniformed service members.

Boyd also reviewed service members' entitlements under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), Title 38 U.S.C., Chapter 43. This act provides job protection and rights of employee reinstatement who are active participants in the National Guard and Reserve.

ESGR also recognizes employers who allow service members to serve our nation on a part-time basis. Service members have the opportunity to thank their employers by nominating their employers for an ESGR award. Also through the Bosslift Program, employers have the opportunity to see National Guard members and Reservists in action. Employers get a bird's eye view of the leadership and various training programs their employees take part in during training. The Bosslift Program also is an opportunity for employers to make contributions to ESGR and ask questions.

The ESGR provides frequently asked questions with answers for both employers and service members on their website. Service members are invited to learn more about ESGR by visiting <http://www.esgr.org>.

**(By 1st Lt. Stacia Hayes, 640th ASG)**

## 81st RSG

### 1189th Transportation Terminal Brigade

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – The 1189th Transportation Terminal Brigade, North Charleston, S.C., recently held its 2001 Driver Rodeo. Subordinate motor units from the brigade came to Charleston to compete for the coveted award as "Best Driver." The winning soldier for each of the five categories was selected after three days of competition and they will represent the 1189th in the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) Annual Rodeo in Gulfport, Miss.

This year was the first time that the 1189th had run a consolidated Rodeo. Since the 1189th recently added three medium truck petroleum companies, it was appropriate to have the units compete to represent the 1189th. The units that participated included the 495th, 596th, 650th, 846th, 941st, 942nd and 991st truck companies. The participants competed in one of the five vehicle categories: light, medium, and heavy trucks, palletized load systems, or material handling equipment. The 1189th was very pleased with the success of this year's rodeo.

**(By Maj. Stephen Rutner, 1189th USA TTB)**

### 44th Medical Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. The Headquarters & Headquarters' Company (HHC), 44th Medical Command (MEDCOM), Fort Bragg, N.C., recently converted to a multiple component unit in October. This unique and elite active duty unit is opening its doors to the Reserve Component (RC) to fill some of its key positions. This will be an excellent opportunity for qualified reservists to work with the Active Component (AC) on a regular basis. The emphasis on training will be to work with the active members of the unit. Drills and Annual Training will be conducted on a very flexible schedule varying from section to section.

The 44th MEDCOM provides an array of services including hospitalization, air and ground evacuation, veterinary services, surgical care, pharmacy, dental care, entomology, sanitation, preventive medicine, medical logistics, optical fabrication, blood services and combat stress control. This diversity in capabilities allows the command to task organize to meet any mission.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the 44th MEDCOM can contact Capt. Elizabeth Baker at 910-396-3221 or email her [bakerel@bragg.army.mil](mailto:bakerel@bragg.army.mil).

**(By SSG Derrick Witherspoon, 81st RSC PAO)**



## BRIEFS

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E-Card

FORT MONROE, Va. – Soldiers in professional-development courses will soon be given a credit-card size E-Card to help them with research projects.

The E-Card fits into a computer's CD-Rom drive. When it is inserted, it will automatically show the links to military Web sites and other distance-learning resources. When the soldier clicks on the name of the Web site, the connection is made.

Students attending Noncommissioned Officer and Officer Education Systems, as well as distance-learning courses will be given an E-Card. Soldiers enrolled in The Army University Online, or eArmyU, are issued computers with the information on the E-Card already loaded.

Soldiers should keep the card they are given, officials said. When soldiers take future courses, they can use it again. If the system has added or deleted Web site links, the card will be automatically updated when it's inserted into a computer CD-Rom drive.

The E-Card is based on similar cards used in industry. On the plain side, the playing side, is a raised circle that fits into the CD recess in the computer's drive. Once the E-Card fits into the recess and the tray is closed, the Web sites on the E-Card are displayed.

The cards currently contain 28 Web sites, but that will increase, according to Jim Wood, information and marketing contractor with Communication Technologies, the company that makes the CD-Rom cards.

(Army News Service)

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TRICARE

WASHINGTON – Department of the Army officials have enacted healthcare system changes to make life a little easier for reserve component members and their families following the Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom call-up to active duty.

The most significant change is a national demonstration project that waives all TRICARE deductibles for family members of Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom activated reservists and guardsmen for care received since Sept. 14.

For more information on these new benefits and on healthcare for reservists and guardsmen, visit TRICARE for the reserve components at [www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/default.htm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/default.htm).

(American Forces Press Service)

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Supporting the Troops

WASHINGTON – In response to numerous public inquires concerning “how can I show my support to Army Reserve soldiers,” there has been a Public Support to the Troops electronic message board created.

The message board can be used to send general greetings, words of encouragement, and other announcements to over 10,000 Army Reservists who have been called up in support of the current war against terrorism. The message board is similar to the former “To Any Service Member” letter writing program that unfortunately had to be cancelled due to force protection measures. This program let U.S. service members know that fellow Americans supported them and appreciated their sacrifices.

Messages can be e-mailed to: [SupportTheTroops@ocar.army.pentagon.mil](mailto:SupportTheTroops@ocar.army.pentagon.mil).

The messages can be viewed at: [www.army.mil/usar/](http://www.army.mil/usar/).

(U.S. Army Reserve On-Line)

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Identity Theft

WASHINGTON – An e-mail circulating about a retiree who had his identity stolen after filing separation papers at a county courthouse is no urban legend, according to Transition Center officials.

Soldiers separating from the military are now being advised to ignore the old recommendation to file their Department of Defense Form 214 (Military Discharge) with their local county courthouse. Instead, transition counselors are advising soldiers to safeguard their personal information to guard against credit fraud, said Deborah Snider, Transition Center personnel analyst at the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command.

Between 600,000 to 700,000 cases of identity theft were reported by the Federal Trade Commission in 2000. Identity theft is the fastest growing crime today, according to the FTC, and many victims don't find out that their personal information has been stolen until they are trying to buy a house or get a loan.

To help guard against identity theft the Transition Center is no longer placing Social Security numbers on discharge and retirement certificates, Snider said. Anything that might be hung for display will not have a soldier's Social Security number on it.

Forty-six states now have identity theft laws, up from just three in 1996, according to the Federal Trade Commission. And many state lawmakers are considering toughening laws already on the books.

(ArmyLink News)

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Troops to Teachers

WASHINGTON – They are disciplined, smart, motivated, goal-oriented and have a disposition to serve.

Sounds like what makes good service members. It also sounds like what makes good teachers, so DoD and the Education Department have resurrected the Troops to Teachers program with an \$18 million infusion from the fiscal 2002 federal budget.

The new money will give retiring or separating service members a chance to become teachers. “This gives departing military personnel a chance to continue their lives of service,” said John Molino, deputy assistant defense secretary for military community and family policy.

Those retiring from the military have always qualified for the program. The fiscal 2002 defense authorization act adds a new eligible group: service members who separate after six years or more of service, are not eligible for retirement, and agree to serve three years in one of the reserve components.

The program will pay service members up to a \$5,000 stipend to help cover the costs of a teacher certification program. Some participants would also receive a \$10,000 bonus in lieu of the stipend if they accept a job in a “high-needs” school district. A high-needs district is one where 50 percent of its students come from low-income families.

Those who enroll in the program must teach for at least three years.

(American Forces Press Service)

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TRICARE

ARLINGTON, Va. – Chicago-based Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) is offering newly deployed National Guard and Reserve troops grants of up to \$100 to help pay electricity bills, as well as flexible utility payment options, company spokesmen recently announced.

One of the nation's largest utilities, ComEd serves more than 3.4 million customers in Northern Illinois — nearly 70 percent of the state's population. The company is setting aside \$70,000 to fund its new program, dubbed “CHAMP,” for ComEd Helps Activated Military Personnel. ComEd officials estimate that 3,000 to 5,000 of their customers might be eligible for CHAMP.

In addition to the need-based \$100 grants for troops facing hardship as a result of their deployment, CHAMP includes choices such as an interest-free deferred payment plan of up to one year, an installment payment plan, deposit reductions, or refunds of previously paid deposits. The company will also suspend late charges and extend bill due dates.

Unit commanders will screen and identify CHAMP candidates.

For more information, National Guard and Reservists can call their unit administrative offices or ComEd at (800) 334-7661, which are not toll-free everywhere overseas.

(Army Reserve Webpage)

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VA Home Loans

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10, 2002 — An act recently passed by Congress and signed by President Bush increases the guaranty on Veterans Affairs home loans from \$50,750 to \$60,000.

The increase means eligible veterans can use their loan benefit to purchase a home costing as much as \$240,000 without a down payment. Many lenders will make VA no-down-payment loans for four times the maximum guaranty amount, said Judy Caden, deputy director of VA's Loan Guaranty Service. Before the president signed the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001 on Dec. 27, 2001 the maximum guaranty was \$50,750, which allowed no-down-payment loans of up to \$203,000.

The act also changed the Native American veterans housing loan program, assistance for specially adapted housing and home loans for National Guardsmen and reservists.

VA's direct loan program for Native Americans assists those vets buying on trust land, she noted. VA issues the loan, not a private lender, so the program's different from regular guaranteed home loans.

The act also increases specialty housing grants from \$43,000 to \$48,000 for severely disabled veterans who need homes built to accommodate wheelchairs. The grant pays for such things as wider hallways, lowered kitchen appliances and counter tops, and bigger bathrooms, Caden said. Veterans can use both a grant and a regular VA guaranteed loan to cover the total cost of their home purchase, she said.

The new law also extends housing loans for National Guard and Reserve personnel from September 2007 to Sept. 30, 2009. Reserve component personnel are authorized the same home loan guarantees as active duty personnel.

(American Forces Press Service)